

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A fastening system comprising:
  - a) an object including a securement structure for mounting at a fastening location with a fastener, the securement structure including a bearing surface;
  - 5 b) a mounting structure fastened with respect to the securement structure, the mounting structure including a lower creep rate than a creep rate of the securement structure, the mounting structure further including a bearing surface; and
  - c) a bearing member including a first portion for bearing against the bearing surface of the securement structure and a second portion for bearing against the bearing surface of the mounting structure, wherein the bearing member may be biased such that the bearing surfaces of the securement and mounting structures both simultaneously receive compressive force from the respective first and second portions of the bearing member.
- 10 2. The fastening system of claim 1, wherein the object is included as an element for a vehicle.
3. The fastening system of claim 2, wherein the element comprises a vehicle bed element.
4. The fastening system of claim 2, wherein the object is an integral part of the element.
5. The fastening system of claim 1, wherein the mounting structure comprises a cross brace fastened with respect to a surface of the securement structure.
6. The fastening system of claim 1, wherein a surface of the second portion of the bearing member is offset from a surface of the first portion of the bearing member.
7. The fastening system of claim 6, wherein the surface of the first portion of the bearing member comprises a first planar surface and wherein the

surface of the second portion of the bearing member comprises a second planar surface.

8. The fastening system of claim 1, wherein the first portion of the bearing member includes a resilient washer.

9. The fastening system of claim 1, wherein the securement structure includes an aperture having a diameter and the mounting structure includes an aperture that has a smaller diameter than the diameter of the securement structure aperture, the bearing surface of the securement structure circumscribes the securement structure aperture and the bearing surface of the mounting structure circumscribes the mounting structure aperture, the first portion of the bearing member has a diameter that is larger than the diameter of the securement structure aperture and the second portion of the bearing member has a diameter that is smaller than the diameter of the securement structure aperture and larger than the diameter of the mounting structure aperture.

10. The fastening system of claim 9, wherein the mounting structure aperture is concentrically aligned with the securement structure aperture.

11. The fastening system of claim 1, wherein the mounting structure includes a cross sectional portion with a general C-shaped cross section, and the securement structure includes a countersunk portion that extends down into a cavity defined by the cross sectional portion.

12. A vehicle bed element for mounting at a fastening location of a vehicle with a fastener, the vehicle bed element comprising:

a) a securement structure including an aperture having a diameter and a bearing surface circumscribing the aperture;

b) a mounting structure fastened with respect to the securement structure, the mounting structure including a lower creep rate than a creep rate of the securement structure, the mounting structure further including an aperture that has a smaller diameter than the diameter of the securement

structure aperture, the mounting structure including a bearing surface circumscribing the mounting structure aperture; and

15 c) a bearing member including a first portion with a first surface for bearing against the bearing surface of the securement structure, the first portion including a diameter that is larger than the diameter of the securement structure aperture, the bearing member further including a second portion with a second surface that is offset from the first surface for bearing against the bearing surface of the mounting structure, the second portion including a diameter that is smaller than the diameter of the securement structure aperture and larger than the diameter of the mounting structure aperture, wherein the bearing member may be biased such that the bearing surfaces of the securement and mounting structures both simultaneously receive compressive force from the respective first and second surfaces of the bearing member.

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13. The vehicle bed element of claim 12, wherein the mounting structure comprises a cross brace fastened with respect to a surface of the securement structure.

14. The vehicle bed element of claim 12, wherein the first surface of the bearing member comprises a first planar surface and wherein the second surface of the bearing member comprises a second planar surface.

15. The vehicle bed element of claim 12, wherein the first portion of the bearing member includes a resilient washer.

16. The vehicle bed element of claim 12, wherein the mounting structure includes a cross sectional portion with a general C-shaped cross section, and the securing structure includes a countersunk portion that extends down into a cavity defined by the cross sectional portion.